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USA TODAY NETWORK

17 dead at Fla. school

Suspect in shooting is a former student who was identified as a threat to others, teacher says

Nation, 1B

THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2018
"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" II COR. 3:17

IndyStar.

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CITY EDITION

Sunday alcohol sales may start sooner than forecast

Tony Cook
Indianapolis Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

Sunday carryout alcohol sales could come even sooner than expected after a House committee moved up the effective date.

The House Public Policy Committee voted 9-1 in favor of a Senate bill that would allow grocery, drug, convenience and liquor stores to sell alcohol on Sundays from noon to 8 p.m.

Rep. Tim Wesco, a conservative Republican lawmaker from Goshen, was the only "no" vote.

A repeal of Indiana's Prohibition-era ban on Sunday carryout alcohol sales is now as close as two votes away from final approval. MICHELLE PEMBERTON/INDYSTAR

The vote came after the committee changed the effective date from July 1 — the standard date when most new laws go into effect — to immediately upon passage.

Sen. Ron Alting, the bill's author, said he and the committee's chairman, Rep. Ben Smaltz, agreed to the change in advance of Wednesday's hearing on the measure.

"Why wait until July to provide

See SUNDAY, Page 6A

The Rev. Tom Kryder-Reid places ashes on Elise Taylor's forehead at Christ Church Cathedral.

Ash Wednesday blessing

Church marks Lent's start with walk-up service

The Rev. Tom Kryder-Reid signs the cross of ashes on the forehead of Siara Reyes, above left photo, Tony Russell, above right photo, and James Poston, at right, during Ash Wednesday's "Ashes On The Go!" offered at Christ Church Cathedral on Monument Circle. People could come up to receive the ashes and continue on their way.
PHOTOS BY KELLY WILKINSON/INDYSTAR

EXPLOITED: INSIDE THE DARK WORLD OF CHILD TRAFFICKING

Lies flow for those buying underage sex

Tim Swarens
Columnist
Indianapolis Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

IndyStar columnist Tim Swarens spent a year investigating the commercial sex trade of children, a lucrative business where more than 1 million kids a year are abused. This is the fifth of 10 columns in the EXPLOITED series.

SEATTLE – The man in the red shirt is angry.

My question, which has triggered his anger, was about whether he and other men in a court-ordered program for sex buyers had considered whether at least some of the girls and women they purchased were victims of human trafficking.

"I've never had sex with anyone who didn't want to be there," Red Shirt says, his voice rising. "They're whores. They wanted the money."

> **"I've never had sex with anyone who didn't want to be there. ... They wanted the money."**
> **Man in court-ordered program for sex buyers**

Denial is a high wall to climb. One of the lies men who buy sex tell themselves is that the people they purchase are always willing participants. Most admit that trafficking does exist, but they also insist they've never been involved with it.

I move to the next question. Why do many online ads promote 19-year-old women for sale? (In the sex trade, the supposed 19-year-old who is supposedly working her way through college has become a cliche).

A professional in the tech sector speaks up. "Nineteen is the sweet spot," he says. "If she's advertised as 18, then there's a risk that she might be underage. But 19 is still a teenager."

The man who says this is in his late 40s. Later, I learn that he had been arrested for arranging to buy sex from an undercover officer posing as a 15-year-old girl.

Of course, pimps can't openly advertise the real age of the 14-year-olds they groom, manipulate and coerce. They know police and prosecutors are watching. Instead, young victims often are marketed online on websites like Backpage with code words: Fresh, new, sweet.

Or as 19-year-olds who need help with tuition.

For most men who pay for what they tell themselves is barely legal sex, it's a don't ask-don't tell affair. She may be 19 as advertised. Or 25. Or 15. Just don't shatter the fantasy with the truth.

"The whole business is built on lies," the tech guy says.

See EXPLOITED, Page 10A

In demand
Damon Bailey knows what prep star Romeo Langford is going through. **1C**

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